



JAN. 2016

**POINTS OF
INTEREST**

★

**WHEN TO
CALL THE
POLICE**

★

**NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
WATCH &
NEXTDOOR**

★

**A WORD
FROM THE
TOP**

**HERE TO
SERVE:**

2012 Pacific Ave
Forest Grove, OR
97116

Business Phone:
503-992-3260

Non-emergency
Dispatch:
503-629-0111

GROVE WATCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST GROVE POLICE DEPT.

Citizens' Academy Applications Underway

Do You Have What it Takes?
FGPD Invites you to learn about how the police system works, what takes to be a police officer, and how you can get involved!

The FGPD is now accepting applications for the 2016 Citizen's Police Academy, a ten week program aimed at fostering partnerships between police and citizens by building understanding and communication about the role of police in our community.

The course meets every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m., February 10 thru April 20, 2016.

Course content includes sessions on patrol procedures, criminal investigations, forensics, and other criminal justice content.



Join Capt. Herb and several of FGPD's finest in a ten week in-depth course that covers the ins and outs of police work in our town.

Individuals interested in attending the Citizen's must meet the following criteria:

- 1.) Resident of the City of Forest Grove, or regularly employed within the city limits of Forest Grove.
- 2.) At least 18 years old (with exception of high school students for senior projects; students must be Forest Grove residents).

3.) No felony criminal convictions

4.) No more than one misdemeanor criminal conviction.

*There is no maximum age or physical requirements to participate in the academy.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on January 22, 2016.

The Academy is limited to 25 seats. Applications are available at the Forest Grove Police Station (2102 Pacific Ave., Forest Grove) or on the City's website:

www.forestgrove-or.gov/citizensacademy.

Questions can be directed to Community Outreach Specialist Lauren Quinsland at lquinsland@forestgrove-or.gov

Upcoming Event: Coffee with a Cop

FGPD cordially invites you to the Forest Grove McDonald's on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 for a free cup of coffee and some good conversation from 8-10 a.m. during the quarterly Coffee with a Cop event. And the coffee's on us!

With no agenda, no prepared statements, and a fun, casual atmosphere, Coffee

with a Cop allows members from the community to interact with members of the FGPD to voice concerns, ask questions, and get to know the officers who serve their town.

The event is open door, no reservations are required, and the department will foot the bill for a cup of brewed

coffee. Officers and other representatives from the department will be standing by for conversation.

Coffee with a Cop is held every three months at various locations throughout Forest Grove. from 8-10 a.m. Other events are scheduled for July 6 and October 5 at locations to be determined.

When & How to Report Suspicious Activity

Learning to call 911 in the case of an emergency is part of every pre-school and kindergarten curriculum. We are all taught from a young age that help is just three digits away and even has its own quick access on many modern phones. But ever since its inception in 1967, the 911 system has allowed for the immediate assistance of millions of individuals, but not without its fair share of non-emergencies that bog the system down. The increase in SmartPhone use in recent years have further complicated things through “pocket dials” that take up space for actual emergencies.

Non-emergency dispatches were created to help relieve the 911 lines of calls from those who are not in immediate distress. Calling 911 for a non-emergency will not result in a faster response and may even require you to hang up and dial the ten digit non-emergency dispatch number.

But how do you know when or who to call?

911 is for police, fire or medical emergencies when immediate action is required.

This means someone’s health, safety, or property is in danger or a crime is in progress.

Examples:

- An event that involves immediate threat to a person or property, such as screams, attacks, gunshots, fire, car accidents with injury or medical emergency.
- A serious crime that has just occurred, such as sexual assault or robbery
- A suspicious circumstance that may indicate an imminent criminal act, such as a prowler
- Suicide threats when the individual is clearly in crisis, such as holding a firearm or having a breakdown

If you are unsure if your situation is an emergency, dial 911. Operators will help determine if immediate action is necessary or direct you to non-emergency.

Non Emergency Dispatch are for situations in which there is no active harm, threat, or danger, and police, medical or fire assistance is not needed immediately.

Examples:

- Reporting a crime with no suspect
- Reporting a crime with suspect who is not at the scene, such as with Internet scams and fraud
- Reporting a serious crime with a lengthy delay, such as reporting an incident from the day before
- Non-emergency in progress, such as a noisy party or drug use
- Ongoing crime issues or crimes that are not in progress, such as graffiti but no suspect
- Suspicious circumstances that may indicate ongoing activity, such as a marijuana growth operation

Another option is to visit the station at 2102 Pacific Ave. in Forest Grove from 9-4 p.m. and voice your concerns.

Most of all it’s important to know that your concerns are police business. The FGPD aims to protect and serve our community, and that means taking your concerns seriously. Never hesitate to contact the police if something seems suspicious or out of the ordinary. I

If you witness or are involved in a non-emergency situation, call the

**Non-Emergency
Dispatch at
503-629-0111**



Neighborhood Watch



Take a moment to think about your neighbors.

What do they do for work? How many children do they have? Do they have pets? What kind of car do they drive? Do you even know their names?

We increasingly live in a world in which our network and relationships are connected more through our phones and tablets than face to face on a front lawn. Yet when it comes to crime prevention, who best to identify suspicious activity in your neighborhood than the individuals who pass your house each day?

The Neighborhood Watch (NW) program began in the 1970s as a way for neighbors to share information and concerns with the intent of fostering community and looking out for each other. By knowing those around them, residents were better able to assess if and when something didn't seem right, was out of place, or was downright suspicious.

Since then, NW programs have popped up in nearly every incorporated town in the USA. Even Gaston, Oregon, population 620, has a NW program.

The program teaches residents how to be more observant neighbors, how to recognize suspicious activities, and know how and when to properly report to authorities. Additionally, NW programs teach participants techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home, in their vehicles and in public places, as well as how to make their property more secure. Moreover, NW members often are more connected with the FGPD and thus more informed about goings on in their neighborhood.

While the program is not directly operated by the FGPD, our Community Outreach Specialist does assist with the facilitation of programs by individuals in the community and

Above all, the NW serves to get to know one another face to face, learn how to look out for each other.

If you live in Forest Grove, chances are you already reside in an area in which an official NW program is in place. Contact lquinsland@forestgrove-or.gov for more information.

*To start a
Neighborhood
Watch program or
find out more
about NW activity
in your
neighborhoods,
check out:
www.nnwi.org or
contact FGPD.*

Nextdoor: Your Neighborhood's Social Media

Social Media has redefined what it means to be 'friends.' It's not uncommon to interact more with those who live far distances through Candy Crush or Facebook than those who live right next door. And yet neighbors—the physical residents in proximity to our homes—are those who are in the best position to help us guard against criminal or unusual activity in our community, as well as share information about activities in the area.

Enter Nextdoor, an online community that allows residents to form virtual neighborhoods in a manner not too different from Facebook groups. Nextdoor community leaders are able to share information pertinent to the safety of the neighborhood, often in conjunction with Neighborhood Watch. In addition to reporting suspicious or crime prevention activity, neighbors can post run-of-the-mill neighborhood information, such as school events, sales or parties, and allows neighbors to interact via messaging. The Forest Grove Police maintains a Nextdoor Neighborhood for all Grove residents to interact with and get relevant, timely news about community safety.



Capt. Herb's Blurp



As we begin 2016 and decide on those New Year's resolutions (or not), one solid commitment all of us should make is to avoid being a victim of online and/or telephone scams. While a theft of property might be challenging to avoid from time to time, avoiding scams is something you can control 100% of the time. The growing problem of cybercrime cost Americans over \$800,000,000 last year. It has become epidemic even in our local area with members of our own community losing tens of thousands of dollars. There are usually common denominators associated with cybercrime. One is when the circumstances of the deal for goods or services seem "unusual" or "too good to be true". Another is an extremely convincing individual either by phone, online chat or email needs your personal information, credit card information or requires that you wire money for any number of situations. These are all red flags and we need your help in educating your friends, neighbors and family members about these scams, especially the elderly who are most vulnerable. We are available 24/7 to answer questions if you are ever in doubt. Call 503.992.3260 or 503.629.0111.

Word from the Chief

I realized long ago that I work with ordinary heroes.

From the moment they decide to be a police officer until the day they retire, they will be in the public eye. Every action they take, or don't take, will be subject to intense scrutiny. Every single day they have the ability to protect the weak and vulnerable, the chance to fight crime and foster hope. They will be called upon to be courageous. They should, and they must. The first line of defense for your community lies with them. They walk fine lines as they balance the needs of their patrol areas, citizens and business communities, putting all equal under the law, and taking responsibility for their own actions. While the public might take certain matters personal, officers should not and cannot; it is not "us versus them." Police officers investigate and follow the trail of evidence to the truth. They exist to help those in need and seek out and arrest those who prey on society. They protect and they serve.

But we need the support from the community as these heroes continue to serve in an era where challenges are presented on a daily basis to do the right thing for the right reason, at the right time. Having the police and the community continue to work together for a safer, more livable community will go a long way in making each and every one of our lives matter!



HERE TO SERVE:

Lauren Quinsland
Community Outreach Specialist
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Forest Grove, OR 97116
503-992-3260

FOREST GROVE OREGON

A place where businesses and families thrive.

www.forestgrove-or.gov
City Hall: 503-992-3200



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

6 April

Coffee with a Cop
8-10 a.m. - McDonald's
Forest Grove